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Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research*

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report covers the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2002. It follows the format introduced some years ago, namely a short factual description of on-going programmes, followed by a chronological list of training activities and statistics of participation per country and per region.

2. The report is presented in three main chapters:

I. Training Programmes in Multilateral Diplomacy and International Affairs Management;
II. Activities of UNITAR New York Office;
III. Training and Capacity Building Programmes in the field of Economic and Social Development.

3. Detailed information is available on line: www.unitar.org. The web site has been recently updated.

4. The recommendations of the General Assembly over the last decade have been fully implemented, notably, that the programmes should focus on areas where priority needs have been identified, that cooperation should be fostered with training institutions from within and outside the United Nations and that stringent financial and administrative management should be exercised to maintain a balanced budget. Similarly, the recommendations of UN examining bodies (the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Office of Internal Oversight Services) have been progressively implemented.

5. Regarding the design and conduct of programmes, the Conclusions and Recommendations of the last session of the Board of Trustees (30 April to 2 May 2002) reads as follows:

"The programme presentations were highly appreciated by the Trustees and elicited in-depth discussions. Some crosscutting questions and comments raised could be summarized as follows:

- The importance of UNITAR's role as a neutral insider, to evaluate United Nations programmes and activities;
- The importance of providing training that keeps its focus on developing countries, and distinguishing therein the diversity of needs and means within developing countries themselves;
- The diversity of the Trustees' own backgrounds and expertise, and the importance of this diversity for developing UNITAR future plans;
- The need for UNITAR to develop partnerships and cooperation with international financial institutions for programmes on trade-related matters;
- The possibility of expanding the outreach of programmes through e-learning, as demonstrated by the success of the Debt and Financial Management Programme, and the need for other UNITAR programmes to follow suit;
- The rising number of requests for "à la carte" training, particularly in International Affairs Management Programmes, and the difficulty of trying to meet all the needs."

New Trends

6. The training programmes addressing civil servants of Member States from various ministries and at different levels of functions and responsibilities are continuing. The workshops and seminars addressed to diplomats are mostly conducted at headquarters of the Organization in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. Most of the programmes dealing with economic and social development are organized in the field. Over two thirds of the activities take place in developing countries and countries in transition.

7. During the period under review, 223 programmes, workshops and seminars have been organized, benefiting over 11,400 participants throughout five continents.

8. Over recent years, UNITAR has developed methodologies for the design, launching and implementation of training and capacity building

programmes. These encompass the entire process, from the identification of needs to the report to the General Assembly, including the various validations of relevance, quality and financial ingenuity undertaken by the donors and recipients, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the United Nations Board of Auditors and, in particular, by UNITAR Board of Trustees.

9. Among the most recent trends in UNITAR's activities, at least four deserve to be mentioned: development of distance and e-learning, emphasis on capacity building or strengthening, research on innovative methodologies and increased participation in intergovernmental undertakings.

Distance and E-learning

10. Over the past few years, UNITAR has developed correspondence training courses in the field of peacekeeping operations and international environmental law. These programmes are meeting with increased success. Following extensive theoretical and practical research and experience, UNITAR is now ready to launch its e-learning activities. E-learning is expected to increase the traditional participant base, to offer updated and relevant modules "anytime and anywhere" through the web and other related technologies, to have a multiplying effect through incorporation and use of its online modules by partners in developing countries. The e-learning platform should provide the technological tools for UNITAR participants to access course content and experts in a manner that addresses the specific needs of the target audience. UNITAR places a special emphasis on cooperation with regional and national training institutes from developing countries. E-learning is recognized as having many advantages:

- Offering updated and relevant training modules to its audience at low cost;
- Reducing the cost per participant;
- Interactivity, personalization, content structure and engagement;
- Empowering individual participants by providing flexible and easy access to information, materials and networks/community of users;
- Greater visibility and access to UNITAR's training programmes;
- Considerable reduction in costs associated with course management at UNITAR;
- Re-usability of content in future UNITAR training.

Capacity Building

11. Regarding capacity building, UNITAR has conducted an in-depth reflection over recent years. Conclusions drawn from this reflection indicate that institution strengthening is the ultimate goal of training. It also implies comprehensive and durable action. Training activities must be multiplied and diversified. It is vital that the competent authorities within the recipient countries, the local authorities and various leading communities must properly assess the institutional infrastructures necessary for guaranteeing the good management of the issues at stake. Development agencies should also be involved to the greatest possible extent, including in strategy planning. Mid-term capacity building programmes are increasingly designed for a number of selected countries of the developing regions. This goes beyond the traditional approach of technical assistance or cooperation, instead being centered on the concept of human and institutional capacity building to increase ability to manage and govern.

Training Methodologies

12. Research on and for training has now become a constant and increasing activity of UNITAR, including training needs assessments, conduct and use of evaluation results and knowledge sharing.

13. In the perspective of capacity building involving a greater number of national and international stakeholders, needs assessment, in particular self-needs assessment, must be given particular emphasis. In fact, capacity development interventions that are not preceded by a stock-taking and situation analysis and systematic identification of key issues, priorities and capacity needs are likely to be remain

ineffective. To address this issue, UNITAR has developed, together with several international partner organizations, tools and methodologies to assist countries to undertake self-assessment of capacity needs in a number of areas in the field of economic and social development. With guidance and technical support provided by UNITAR, partner countries prepare so-called National Profiles which are key national references documents compiled through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and include all relevant information and analysis needed for priority setting and action plan development in a particular area. National Profile programmes have so far been initiated to the areas of chemicals management, climate change, desertification, environmental information systems, and debt and financial management. More recently, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has requested UNITAR to assist in preparing a guide to support countries in the conduct of self-assessments of capacity needs relating to the Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification). In a similar vein, the Secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention has entered into an agreement with UNITAR to assist countries to prepare a National Profile related to the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

14. Evaluation is a widely recognized tool to measure effectiveness and to help define ways of increasing effectiveness. Many activities, programmes and projects are evaluated on an ad-hoc basis, routinely, or at the request of a stakeholder. In most cases, these evaluations involve counterpart officials and organizations in developing countries associated with the activities, programmes and projects being evaluated. Evaluation is a tool that does not often live up to expectations, effort and cost. In many cases, findings and recommendations remain a part of the report and never find their way into the culture, decisions and actions of the activities, programmes and projects concerned. Evaluations should not only meet an institutional or programmatic requirement, but should lead to lessons learned, to best practices that are actually followed, to a dependable assessment of impact – in short, to greater effectiveness. The capacity to provide evaluation services is a natural extension of the research and training, information exchange and networking functions. All aspects of evaluation benefit from an interactive relationship with existing UNITAR programmes and activities, and the considerable experience and resource base of training, research and management in many priority areas of concern to the United Nations. UNITAR is pursuing theoretical reflection and pragmatic action in this field.

15. The last and most recent reflection on training conducted by UNITAR touches upon the foundation and sharing of action-derived knowledge. UNITAR will undertake new partnerships with the private sector in the area of knowledge creation and sharing. This approach is now perceived not merely as an alternative strategic option but as a key to organizational survival. Public institutions, and organizations from civil society need to benefit from that experience. As countries move towards the implementation of various development initiatives, their need for increased access to know-how is more and more acute. To date, however, that know-how is neither readily nor widely available, as the expertise required for large-scale implementation of development activity is in very short supply. Strengthening implementers' capacity to learn from action, to create their own knowledge banks and to share lessons learned is the only way towards successful development on a global scale.

Active participation in intergovernmental meetings

16. Thanks to the recognized relevance of its training and research programmes and the regained credibility, UNITAR is frequently invited by the United Nations to participate more directly and concretely to intergovernmental events. During the period under review, UNITAR was called upon to participate in the preparation of two major events – the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, August 2002, and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to take place in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005. UNITAR's contribution remains focused on aspects and issues on which UNITAR has gained experience over the last decade.

17. UNITAR's contribution to the WSSD has been very specific and concrete. The context and the *modus operandi* of the Summit were in harmony with UNITAR's flexible approach to its actions and its constant quest for cooperation. UNITAR, in association with several other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia and private corporations has prepared the announcement of three partnership initiatives, namely:

- Local Capacity Building and Training on Sustainable Urbanization: a Public-Private Partnership;
- Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally harmonized System for Chemical Classification and labeling (GHS);
- Capacity Building Initiative on the application of Information and communication Technologies (ICT) for the establishment of Environmental Information System in Africa (SISEI).

18. UNITAR is a member of the High Level Organizational Committee (HLOC) of the World Summit on Information Society. The Institute has been conducting several training and capacity building programmes in the field of new information and communication technologies. UNITAR was requested to design and conduct a Special Support Programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Again in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and civil society, UNITAR is building a forum from which LDCs may better assess the challenges of the World Summit and express their concerns regarding the emerging information society, their particular difficulties at the technological level, but also at the economic, social and legal levels. Developing countries in general and LDCs in particular, would glean the greatest possible benefit from the WSIS if they are able to express their interest during the preparatory phase and take an active part in the conclusions and recommendations of the Summit itself. UNITAR has been invited by the Government of Mali, the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Telecommunications Union to contribute to the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the WSIS, which was held in Bamako in May 2002.

19. Participation in world events, organized under the aegis of the United Nations, is a new aspect of UNITAR's activities. This should continue and increase with time, in particular in areas where UNITAR now has recognized expertise in training and capacity building.

Financial Fragility

20. The financial situation of UNITAR is stable but remains vulnerable. This prevents UNITAR from answering numerous requests for assistance from developing countries and countries in transition. The two main issues are the rental and maintenance costs of UNITAR's premises in New York and Geneva and the low level of voluntary contributions to the General Fund.

21. For over a decade now, UNITAR Board of Trustees has proposed that the offices put at UNITAR's disposal by the United Nations should be free of rent and maintenance costs. The rationale behind this is the fact that UNITAR offers training programmes to diplomats accredited to the United Nations Headquarters, regardless of their nationality, grade or functions, free of charge. This constitutes an undoubted contribution to both the Member States and the Organization. In return, the Board of Trustees advocates that the Organization should waive the charges to UNITAR and place the Institute on the same footing as other similar institutes within the United Nations. The issue is debated each year by the Second Committee but no decision has been taken as yet.

22. The second issue is the continuing low level of voluntary contributions to UNITAR's General Fund while participation in cost-free training programmes is increasing. This increase also includes participants from industrialized countries that have not yet resumed their voluntary contributions. The General Assembly has already recognized this "discrepancy". The United Nations Board of Auditors has analyzed the situation in depth. An excerpt of their report is annexed. It shows that the participation of

civil servants from industrialized countries has increased significantly, now reaching around one third of the total participants, while their financial contribution has not increased.

23. During its last session, in May 2002, the Board of Trustees discussed at length the best possible measures to "address the discrepancy between the decline in contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and the increase in participation in its programmes" (A/54/229). The Board recommended the following:

> "(a) UNITAR should not reduce its current programmes nor refuse the participation of nationals from non-contributing countries in its programmes, as both of these measures could be counter-productive. However, participating countries should be made fully aware of the costs pertaining to the conduct of these activities and the overall financial situation of UNITAR;
>
> ...
>
> (e) UNITAR should continue with its fund-raising efforts, as these initiatives took years to bear fruit. Meanwhile, and with the assistance of the Trustees, it should identify desk-officers and key people in capitals responsible for allocating funds, and seek to better inform them on the performance and activities of UNITAR."

In conclusion, the Board considered that many avenues for fund-raising were still open and unexplored, and that the quality and credibility of UNITAR programmes and management provided a good "cause" to take to capitals. It decided therefore to establish a committee, initially composed of six Trustees, to assist the Executive Director in fund-raising tasks."

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

I. Training Programme in Multilateral Diplomacy and International Affairs Management

A. Diplomacy Training and Fellowships

Introduction

24. Many developing countries and countries in economic transition are facing new tasks in the field of international cooperation. It is therefore essential to provide them with a sound background on the various aspects of diplomacy within a multilateral setting. Appropriate training in this field will facilitate access to the multilateral working environment; it will also enable countries to participate more efficiently in international fora and to enhance their domestic capacities for development.

Main Activities

25. The training activities of UNITAR's International Affairs Management Programme are being designed and conducted in the following areas:

Training for diplomats accredited to the United Nations at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna

26. These training programmes in multilateral diplomacy are designed for the benefit of members of permanent missions accredited to the United Nations at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna. As a rule these courses are offered free of charge to UN member States.

27. Training courses for the diplomatic communities in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna focus on general, specific and practical aspects which are instrumental for diplomats in accomplishing their professional tasks in a multilateral setting. Workshops, seminars and briefings are being offered in the form of awareness and orientation training as well as practical skills training. Topics include: UN system overview; functioning of principal UN organs; resolution drafting; basic and advanced negotiations skills; conference diplomacy; negotiation of international legal instruments; sturcture and retrieval of UN documentation; UN official documents system; diplomatic privileges; public speaking; chairing meetings, effective presentations and others.

28. During the period under review, 27 training activities were conducted under this category, 19 in Geneva, 5 in Vienna and 3 in Nairobi. A total of 658 diplomats participated in these training activities. The training courses conducted in New York are reported on separately, under Chapter II, below.

Tailor-made Training

29. UNITAR's tailor-made programmes target government officials, diplomats, diplomatic trainees, civil servants dealing with various aspects of international affairs, academics, and staff members of inter-governmental organizations or NGOs.

30. Participants in tailor-made training activities learn how to act more efficiently on the multilateral scene, for the benefit of their countries or organizations. Thus, UNITAR enhances domestic capacities for development in UN member States. Countries define their own training needs and priorities and inform UNITAR about them.

31. UNITAR then works out a budget estimate for the respective training activity which can be used as a basis by the requesting agency, department or institution to secure funding. Tailor-made training activities can, for example, be organized in a sub-regional context whereby the participating countries/agencies share the costs of the training. UNITAR's tailor-made training programmes are financed from extra-budgetary sources, i.e. funding has to be

provided from outside the regular UNITAR budget.

32. Once the funding for a particular activity has been secured, UNITAR develops a training curriculum on an individual basis, selects trainers and handles all administrative and logistic aspects of the programme. Lastly, UNITAR carries out the training, provides all trainees with background material and evaluates the success of the training project.

33. The topics offered within UNITAR's tailor-made training programme vary within a wide range of areas. New course modules are being developed and added depending on the evolving needs and on the nature of the requests received. Courses are offered in the areas of multilateral diplomacy, international affairs management, public international law, communication skills and new information technologies.

34. The following tailor-made training activities were conducted in the period under review, with the participation of 245 trainees:

- 19 - 23 March 2001, Tokyo/Japan
UNITAR/FASID Course on International Organizations: three-day training module on negotiation skills

- 12 - 16 May 2001, Tehran/Islamic Republic of Iran
Seminar on International Courts and Tribunals for Practitioners from the Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus Region

- 2 - 6 July 2001, Baku/Azerbaijan
UNITAR/UNDP Seminar on Sustainable Human Development

- 17 - 20 September 2001, Lilongwe/Malawi
UNITAR/UNDP Workshop on Chairing, Participating and Negotiating in Bi and Multilateral Meetings

- 24 - 28 September, Geneva
Sports for Development Project - Module I. The United Nations System

- 7 - 18 January 2002, Yaoundé/Cameroon
UN/UNITAR Regional Training Programme in International Law for French-speaking African Countries

- 20 May - 7 June 2002, Banjul/The Gambia
Training on Diplomatic Practice: Module I (conducted in collaboration with UNDP and the Gambian Diplomatic Training Academy)

- 22 - 26 June 2002, Tehran/Islamic Republic of Iran
Workshop on Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations

Fellowship Programmes

35. UNITAR fellowship programmes provide junior to mid-level professionals from United Nations Member States with substantive subject knowledge in the areas of public international law, international affairs management and the international civil service. As a rule, these training courses last much longer than the aforementioned training programmes, covering periods of three weeks, six weeks and seven months. They are recurrent, annual programmes and participation is based on a competitive selection process.

Fellowship Programme in International Law, The Hague

36. This United Nations/UNITAR training programme for lawyers from developing countries and countries in transition was established under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Study, Teaching, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. A limited number of places is available for lawyers from other countries on a cost-covering basis. The course covers, inter alia, international criminal law, treaty law, law of the sea, environmental law, humanitarian law, refugee law, human rights, trade law and trade dispute settlement, dispute resolution, negotiation of international legal instruments and law of international watercourses.This training is conducted in English and French.

Fellowship Programme in International Affairs Management: Capacity Building for Human Security, Geneva

37. This three-week training programme introduces junior to mid-level diplomats to the multilateral diplomatic work environment with a special focus on matters related to human security. The fellowships are reserved for trainees from developing countries and countries in transition. Interested diplomats from industrialized countries may also attend, but must pay a course fee. The programme covers the United Nations system, United Nations reform proposals, United Nations peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy, multilateral negotiation, dispute settlement, mediation, disarmament, humanitarian assistance, HIV Aids, human rights, humanitarian law, environmental law, international courts and tribunals, public speaking and chairing meetings.

38. The training is offered in English only.

Fellowship Programme on the International Civil Service, Yaoundé, Paris, Geneva

39. This seven-month programme is open to trainees from the public and private sectors of French-speaking developing countries. It is organized with the support of the Agence inter-gouvernementale de la Francophonie in collaboration with the Cameroon Institute of International Relations and the Paris-based International Institute of Public Administration.

40. The training comprises four months of instruction followed by a three-month practical internship within a United Nations organization or specialized agency. The course covers the international civil service, international public administration, international organizations, international law, international economic relations, negotiation techniques, report writing, public speaking and new information and communication technologies. This training is conducted in French.

41. In the period under review, 101 trainees received training under UNITAR's multilateral diplomacy fellowship programmes.

Advisory services

42. UNITAR's training programme in multilateral diplomacy and international affairs management is also offering assistance in the elaboration of training curricula for diplomatic institutes in Member states. These advisory services can include the development of fully-fledged training curricula, the elaboration of specialized training modules, the organization and evaluation of training activities, the implementation of study visits to UN HQ sites as well as the assistance in the setting up of diplomatic libraries or new information technology units.

B. Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy

Programme for Briefing and Debriefing Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General

43. This project is being carried out to preserve and pass on the valuable lessons and experience of Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) and to ensure that these are used to refine and enhance UN peace operations. The project has five components: 1) the debriefing of current and past SRSGs through in-depth interviews; 2) the preparation of a *Handbook for SRSGs*, consisting of a well-organized summary of lessons and recommendations from these interviews; 3) a set of DVDs/videos of the interviews, which will accompany the *Handbook*; 4) an annual seminar for SRSGs and senior UN staff to provide a forum to share experiences and lessons and to promote dialogue; and 5) a more systematic briefing programme based on the recommendations of SRSGs. The *Handbook for SRSGs* and DVD/videos will form one part of the briefing programme for new SRSGs. All of these activities are being carried out in close cooperation with the senior staff in relevant UN departments.

44. The first "Seminar for Current Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys of the UN Secretary-General" took place in Mont Pèlerin,

Switzerland in March 2001. The second will take place at the same venue in October 2002. The first round of in-depth interviews with Special Representatives has taken place and a draft of the *Handbook for SRSGs*, based on those interviews, is now being completed and will be ready for the 2002 seminar. As well, videotaped interviews have been carried out with a number of SRSGs and senior Secretariat staff and a sample of these will also be available at this meeting.

45. The programme is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.

UNITAR-IPA Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy

46. This yearly programme, now in its tenth year, offers advanced training in conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation to middle and senior level UN staff and diplomats who wish to learn or refine these skills. The major focus is on the peaceful resolution of disputes through the United Nations. The two-week training programme, held in Holmenkollen, Norway in 2002, offers the latest knowledge and experience in conflict resolution through case studies, seminar discussion of obstacles and issues and the hands-on practice of negotiation and mediation exercises. The programme is currently supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.

UNITAR Regional Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Africa

47. This programme has been developed as an extension of the Fellowship Programme (mentioned above) to provide training at the regional level. It includes participants from the Foreign and Defence Ministries of African States, as well as key staff from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region. It focuses on the pressing need to improve the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. African experts from across the continent serve as resource persons. The programme addresses the challenges faced by practitioners and decision-makers in their efforts to assess and respond to the proliferation of emerging crises in the region. It is designed to strengthen coordination and collaboration among actors and institutions and to provide a cadre of persons who could be called upon to use their skills to assist peace processes in Africa. The first regional training programme was held in October 2000 in Dakar, Senegal, and the second in October 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A third meeting is planned for November 2002. These programmes have received funding from the International Development Agency of Canada, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.

UNITAR-Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) Sub-regional Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Southern Africa

48. The UNITAR-RPTC Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in Southern Africa was established to provide advanced training in conflict analysis, prevention and resolution to middle and senior level professional staff from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence of Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In addition, it also invites the participation of relevant members of staff from the SADC Secretariat, as well as representatives of key non-governmental organizations focusing on peacemaking in Southern Africa. This programme is co-organized with the SADC RPTC and focuses on the pressing need to address issues of peacemaking in the Southern Africa region and the challenges faced by practitioners and decision-makers in their efforts to assess and

respond to the current and potential conflict situations in the sub-region. The training programme takes place at the RPTC Headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. The first programme was held in March 2000, and the second in February 2001. These programmes have been funded by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Network for the Promotion of African Principles of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation / Réseau pour la promotion des principes africains de résolution des conflits et de réconciliation (REPARCOR)

49. This Network has been established between intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working to promote the revitalization and use of African cultural approaches to peacemaking. The Network seeks to promote the use of the positive cultural values, knowledge and skills that exist within African indigenous approaches to conflict resolution and reconciliation. The Network, which has Focal Points in all sub-regions of Africa, collaborates with initiatives that seek to draw upon African cultural values to build a culture of peace on the African continent. For additional information, please refer to the Network's website at www.africanprinciples.org. The initial funding for the establishment of the Network was received from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.

Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Capacities of Minority and Indigenous Peoples' Representatives

50. This programme provides advanced training to key representatives of minority and indigenous peoples in problem-solving approaches to negotiation. The training is designed to build representatives' capacities to more effectively negotiate with governments and other dominant groups to have their needs met, while preserving effective working relationships. Indigenous and minority experts, as well as other specialists, including representatives of regional organizations, serve as resource persons for the training programme. The international programme is conducted annually at the time of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations in Geneva. The first programme took place in 2000 and the second in 2001. As well, a regional training programme is conducted in a different part of the world each year. The first regional training programme, for the Americas, was held in Mexico in 2001. A second programme is planned for February 2003.

51. In May 2002, the UNITAR Seminar for Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was organized in New York at the request of a number of Permanent Forum Members. The Seminar was planned to assist their efforts to prepare for and implement the first historic meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at United Nations Headquarters, and to facilitate work on their important mandate.

52. The programme is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. Plans are underway to hold this meeting at the University for Peace in Costa Rica in December.

C. Programme of Training for the application of Environmental Law

53. UNITAR's Programme of Training for the Implementation of Environmental Law (Environmental Law Programme or ELP) was originally launched in 1997 to promote the strengthening of national legal and institutional components to improve environmental management for sustainable development. The programme is relevant for countries throughout the world but specifically responds to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

General approach

54. Environmental law is an essential tool for the governance of sustainable development. It provides the foundation for governmental policies and actions for the conservation of the environment and for ensuring that the use of natural resources is both equitable and sustainable. Much of the modern body of environmental law has been developed at the international level, most notably through the adoption of international conventions. These must be implemented at the national level through appropriate legislation.

55. This concern is even more relevant today, given the limited capacity of many countries to implement an increasing number of international agreements on the environment. Particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, environmental legislation is often incomplete or outdated and there is a lack of qualified and trained personnel to remedy these deficiencies. By furthering the knowledge of the public, it is possible to create a firm basis for the application of environmental law at the national level.

56. UNITAR's Programme for the Implementation of Environmental Law was prepared in partnership with IUCN and UNEP. Financial support has been provided by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forest and Landscape, the Ministry of Development and Cooperation of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, the "Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie" (AIF), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Governments of Japan, Ireland and Mexico. The United Nations Office for Project Services, UNDP, UNESCO, the World Heritage Convention and the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft have also been supporting the programme.

Correspondence Instruction

57. Along with inaugural and specialised follow-up workshops and capacity building activities at the national and regional level, the distance learning through correspondence instruction in international environmental law is the central component of the programme. This correspondence course has been designed to reach a large number of people working for governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as professionals and students from the academic and research institutions in countries throughout the world. The programme material of the first phase of the course consists of 10 courses in international environmental law.

58. Currently, Phase I (1-10) is available in English with the exception of volume 9, which had to be replaced by a new version, taking into account new developments in the field of environment and trade. The original manuscript is in French and it is being printed. As for the French version of Phase I (1-10), it will be completed by October 2002. The Spanish version of Phase I will be ready by the end of 2002. The development of the second phase will commence early next year depending on the availability of funds.

59. By mid-2002, 430 participants are following the course coming from 87 different countries. They are requested to submit the end-of-course examination included for each Course to UNITAR for evaluation. Upon successful completion of the series, each participant receives a UNITAR Certificate of Attendance. According to a new rule introduced in May 2001, an Award of Merit will be conferred to those who submit a final essay of 15 pages, upon examination by the UNITAR expert team.

E-Training

60. In the era of globalisation characterised by quick changes and rapid developments, e-training is an innovative tool to face the new challenges in the field of information dissemination throughout the world. What is more, international environmental law is a relatively new discipline, which has progressed very quickly over the last decade. E-training is the appropriate tool to keep up with the rapid changes in the field of international environmental law, as it will be easier to adjust and adapt the course modules to actual developments. In the light of these developments, and considering the pressing request from various parties and participants UNITAR has decided to make all the courses available on the web as an e-training package free-of-charge. The programme can thus

be at the disposal of the largest possible audience having access to the Internet. With the financial support of Agence Internationale de la Francophonie (AIF), the Environmental Law Programme has initiated a pilot phase by launching the French version of the correspondence courses (starting with the volumes 1,3,4 and 9) on the Internet and establishing a platform for e-training, cooperating with French-speaking African countries. ELP envisages making the e-training package available in Spanish in the coming months.

National and Regional workshops

61. The Correspondence Instruction Course is supplemented by regional and national workshops. These specialised follow-up workshops and seminars are held at regional and sub-regional level along with selected efforts for environmental capacity building at national level. Since 1997, regional workshops have been carried out for the Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, East, West and North Africa, Eastern Europe, Oceania and the Indian Ocean region. In July 2002, a seminar for Central American countries took place in Panama. A regional workshop for North Africa will be organized in Tunis in October 2002. ELP has organized three workshops on biological diversity for the Asia-Pacific region in Kushiro, Japan. After a positive assessment, ELP will be in charge of a new training programme in Kushiro in March 2003, introducing the participants into the implementation of multi-lateral agreements related to marine biological diversity.

Capacity Building

62. National capacity building programmes are long-term intensive capacity building projects on the implementation of environmental obligations through the recommendations to government organizations, courses and workshops, training of key government officials. UNITAR/ELP has organized national capacity building programmes for countries in South East Asia. In 2002, four capacity building programmes will be organized. Two of these will take place in Senegal (Tourism and Environment, Toxic Waste Management as a follow-up to the introductory regional workshop for West Africa), one in Mauritius (Tourism and Environment) and one Seychelles (coastal zone management). Two others should be organized in Madagascar in 2003. The last four activities are follow-up seminars to the introductory regional workshop for the Indian Ocean region.

A la Carte Training

63. A special seminar for French-speaking European magistrates will take pace in Divonne-les-Bains next November. In 2003 other specialized workshops will be prepared for magistrates (especially for the countries in economic transition), inspectors or lawyers. Compliance and implementation issues will be key questions for ELP in the next two years. Access to information and public participation are also topics to be deeply analyzed. The implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the preparation of the national profiles are priority projects to be realized jointly with the Chemicals and Waste Management Programme of UNITAR. Common projects will be conducted with the International Training Centre for Local Actors (CIFAL) of UNITAR, in the framework of which ELP will be responsible for the legal aspects of the training activities for local and regional authorities in the field of environment.

D. International Migration Policy

64. At the beginning of August 2002, the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) was in its fourth year of implementing government capacity building activities on all aspects of migration. The inter-agency activity, co-sponsored by UNITAR, UNFPA, IOM and ILO, also works in close co-operation with UNHCR and other global and regional institutions dealing with migration issues and related aspects. Its purpose is to offer capacity building to meet national migration management and policy development needs, at national and regional levels, and to foster regional dialogue and co-operation on migration issues. Based on

the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participating governments and institutions over the years, and the on-going adjustment in approach and regional focus, IMP is today regarded as a logical, cost-effective and sustainable mechanism to impart migration policy and management expertise to migration managers in different parts of the world.

65. Within a period of 4 years, IMP activities have benefited over 600 senior and middle level government officials from some 105 countries. Over 200 international and government experts, as well as numerous government observers from Western and other countries, have offered their support in these meetings.

66. Between November 1998 and August 2002, IMP has organised eleven major regional migration policy meetings: Budapest in November 1998 with 14 governments from Central and Eastern Europe; Pretoria in April 1999 with 13 governments from Southern Africa; Bangkok with 19 governments from Asia and the Pacific; Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic in May 2000 with 13 governments from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States; a Follow-up Seminar in Swaziland in November 2000 with 14 governments from Southern Africa; a Follow-up Seminar on Labour Migration in Geneva in December 2000 with 15 governments from Central and Eastern Europe; Kingston, Jamaica in May 2001 with 9 governments from the Caribbean region; Follow-up Consultations in Istanbul in June 2001 with 13 governments from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States; Dakar in December 2001 with 16 governments from West Africa; Nairobi in May 2002 with 13 governments from East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region; and Istanbul in July 2002 with 14 governments from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States. (In September 2002, in Bucharest, Romania, IMP is co-organising with ICMPD, SECI and in co-operation with IOM, a Senior Level Meeting to address trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe under the auspices of the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; and in October 2002, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, IMP is organising a follow-up to the (2001) International Migration Policy Seminar for the Caribbean Region in close co-operation with IOM, and involving the same regional actors as in 2001, namely UNFPA, ILO, UNITAR, UNHCR, UNAIDS, CARICAOM, ECLAC and OAS.)

67. Under its regional approach, IMP continues to gather countries that are part of a 'common migration space', which, while not always defined by a specific region, incorporates States sharing common migration interests and concerns. In an effort to share global migration policy approaches and experiences, IMP also facilitates the interface between developing countries and international experts and governments with more advanced migration management capacity and expertise. The on-going sharing of information and best practices, and the facilitation of inter-State dialogue constitute essential contributions to developing and transit countries' efforts to address more effectively and efficiently increasingly complex and intricate migration challenges.

68. In 2001 and 2002, IMP's inter-disciplinary and inter-agency approach was reinforced through the increased participation of a wider gamut of international and regional partner institutions, including IOM, ILO, UNFPA, UNITAR, UNHCR, UNODCCP, UNHCRC, UNAIDS, Interpol, European Commission, ECLAC, CARICOM, ECOWAS, OSCE, ICMPD, IGC, ICRC, SAMP, MRI and RCMRI.

69. Taking account of the changing facets of international migration, IMP's *core curriculum* was adjusted and expanded further. It now contains fourteen chapters dedicated to the many aspects of migration and human displacement, including the link between asylum and irregular migration, migrant trafficking, migration and HIV/AIDS, migration and national and regional security and stability, and migration data collection, analysis and exchange.

70. A key feature of IMP's concept remains that of sustainability, through follow-up activities with the same governments and, as possible, the same government officials that met in a first regional IMP meeting. As for 2002, many of the activities planned for 2003 are the result of prior IMP activities in the region, where participating

governments requested IMP to pursue its capacity building activity. All such follow-up activities are based on recommendations and conclusions adopted by participating governments, and work agendas are prepared in direct consultation with them.

71. Tentative plans for 2003 include: A Migration Policy Seminar for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East; a Follow-up Migration Policy Seminar for Asia and the Pacific; a Third IMP Migration Policy Seminar for Southern Africa; a Fourth Meeting of the 'Issyk-Kul' Dialogue for Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States; in addition to on-going activities of the Joint IMP/ILO/IOM Migration Policy and Management for Government Officials: an International Training and Capacity Building Project; and the Joint IMP/ICMPD/IOM/SECI Comprehensive Programme for Training, Exchange and Co-operation to Address Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe (South Eastern European Stability Pact).

72. Copies of the IMP Programme and Budget Document 2003 will be made available upon request at unimp@gve.ch. The IMP website may be consulted for further information concerning past and current IMP activities at www.impprog.ch

E. Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations

73. The UNITAR Programme of Correspondence Instruction (UNITAR POCI) was established to provide standard distance training that would be universally available at a low cost to a large population of geographically distributed students. Since 1995 this training has been provided to students through self-paced correspondence courses, and all training material is provided in the form of printed course booklets. In collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Training and Evaluation Service, this programme ensures that the content of the courses justly reflects accepted United Nations practices and policy. Each of the 16 courses offered covers a different aspect of peacekeeping. All 16 courses are available in English, three are in French, one is in German, five are in Spanish, and three are in Swahili. During the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2002, the Programme processed 3,465 enrolments, with students coming from 91 troop-contributing nations. The programme completely is financially self-supporting through enrollment revenues. Student enrollment fees range from US$75 to US$125 depending on the course and cover all costs: printing, shipping, processing, administration, authors' royalties, overhead, etc.

74. The individual course titles offered by the Programme to students include the following: Principles for the Conduct of Peace Support Operations (in English, German, or Swahili); Commanding United Nations Peacekeeping Operations; Commanding UN Peacekeeping Operations (in English, French or Spanish); Logistical Support of UN Peacekeeping Operations (in English or Spanish); Operational Logistical Support of UN Peacekeeping; Serving as a United Nations Military Observer: Methods and Procedures (in English, Spanish, or Swahili); History of UN Peacekeeping Operations 1945 to 1987; History of UN Peacekeeping Operations 1989 to 1997; UN Civilian Police: Restoring Order Following Hostilities (in English, Spanish, or Swahili); The UN Peacekeeping Force in the Former Yugoslavia: Dayton to Kosovo (in English or French); Demining in the Aftermath of War, Preventing Casualties To Peacekeepers and the Civilian Population (in English or German); International Humanitarian Law and The Law of Armed Conflict (In English or French); Global Terrorism; Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution; Security for UN Peacekeepers; The Conduct of Humanitarian Relief Operations (In English or French); and Introduction to the UN System. UNITAR POCI's 16 course authors are from nine different nations and are all experienced peacekeepers and respected practitioners in their field.

75. Each course consists of a series of lessons containing lesson objectives, training material and an end-of-lesson quiz with the answers provided so that students may monitor their own

progress. A comprehensive End-of-Course Exam is completed by the students and submitted for grading. If they meet the minimum passing score of 75%, they receive a Certificate-of-Completion from UNITAR POCI. Students may obtain information about the programme through UNITAR POCI's web page (www.unitarpoci.org), through which they may also enroll, communicate with their instructor, participate in the chat room, and submit their exam. For students without web access, all operations may be done through the mail.

76. A Cooperative Programme has been established that links UNITAR POCI distance training with classroom courses on every continent provided by selected universities and national training programmes. Students who complete a classroom course, one correspondence course per month for 12 months, and an original research thesis are awarded a "Certificate-of-Training in United Nations Peace Support Operations".

II. New York Office

77. The UNITAR New York Office was opened in October 1996, in accordance with various resolutions of the General Assembly and with a decision by the UNITAR Board of Trustees. Its key mandate is to organize training for delegates in New York and to strengthen the Institute's cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes and funds, as well as with academia, foundations and the private sector in the Americas. The Office also provides briefings on other UNITAR programmes conducted from its Geneva headquarters. It furthermore maintains liaison service to another North America-based UNITAR programme, namely, the Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations.

Major activities of the New York Office

78. The main operational task of the New York Office is to design and conduct training programmes for permanent missions in New York. From July 2000 to June 2002, the Office conducted some 66 training events, or close to three events per month. Programmes are designed on the basis of the needs and requests formulated by the missions and through regular assessments conducted by UNITAR at the end of each course. Since July 2000, the Office has trained 2.545 participants, while the range, depth and number of programmes have progressively increased.

79. From July 2000 to June 2001, the New York Office offered 31 courses ; from July 2001 to June 2002, it offered 35 courses (an increase of 4).

80. Some intensive courses, such as the annual Campus on international trade and the Campus on new communication technologies, provide delegates with a platform from which to undertake more extensive training on themes of particular importance.

81. The New York Office aims to provide timely training events to contribute to the specific work of delegates in New York; for example, the DESA/UNITAR workshop on the priority theme of the fortieth session of the Commission for Social Development: Integration of social and economic policy; the series on issues related to the functions and workings of the Bretton Woods Institutions; the Debriefing on the results of the International Conference on Financing for Development and on linkages with the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the WTO/UNITAR workshop on international trade negotiations; the DOALOS/UNITAR briefing on developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea 20 years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the UNU/UNITAR Pre-Conference of Parties Workshop on the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the briefing on environmental law.

82. The New York Office has continued with institutional partnerships with centres of academic excellence, such as the University of Texas at Austin, the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, the German Management Academy and Columbia University. In the private sector, in addition to others, the Office has a close and productive relationship with Intel Corporation.

83. Increasingly, the New York Office receives direct requests from permanent missions for additional programmes. In this context, training events relating to environment and sustainable development, information technologies, international economics and finance, international law and international trade, as well as skills training in such fields as negotiation techniques, effective speaking and the drafting of resolutions, have been developed. The Office will continue this strategy of flexibility and diversity of following specific requests from missions, while at the same time consolidating the themes and curricula that have proven their relevance to the work of the delegates. Efforts to offer wider access and a strengthened follow-up to each event are ongoing, notably through handbooks and training material, as well as the use of web sites.

84. The New York Office draws its resource persons from a variety of agencies and departments within the United Nations system, as well as from academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and private or public corporations. The Office has a number of joint programmes, which include a study programme for diplomats accredited to the United Nations with the Law School at Columbia University, a series on sustainable development in practice with the United Nations University, a workshop series with the World Bank, an annual week-long campus on international trade with the University of Texas at Austin and the World Trade Organization; a workshop series with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, a workshop series under a partnership with Seton Hall University, and a workshop series on public-private partnership for sustainable development with the German Management Academy.

Special projects

85. The Series on Policy Awareness and Training in Information Technology, organized by the New York Office, was launched under the auspices of the ICT Task Force and the Working Group on Informatics, with the support of Intel Corporation. The series aims to enable diplomats accredited to the United Nations in New York to acquire specific computer skills and be exposed to workings of the Internet. It also raises awareness and understanding of policy and security issues related to the information society. It consists of a set of four progressive modules and one seminar presented as a cycle, which is repeated four times a year. It is expected that some 400 participants will benefit from one or more modules in the series in 2002.

III. Training and Capacity Building Programmes in the Field of Economic and Social Development

A. Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management

UNITAR's Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management (CWM)

86. These programmes support developing countries and countries in economic transition in their efforts to ensure that dangerous chemicals and waste are handled safely without causing harm to human health and the environment. The programmes are closely linked to the implementation of Agenda 21 and related policy instruments which set out the responsibilities of countries have towards the goal of sustainable development. As a participating organisation in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), a cooperative agreement among UNEP, FAO, WHO, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD, UNITAR contributes its experience in training and capacity building methodologies, while UNITAR's IOMC partners contribute their substantive expertise in specific areas of chemicals and waste management.

Programmes to Facilitate Integrated Chemicals Management

87. The cross-sectoral nature of chemicals management, and the interests of various government ministries and other stakeholders in this area, require an integrated and coordinated approach at the country level and the development of an organisational framework through which sustained national action in the area of sound management of chemicals can be ensured. The following interrelated UNITAR programmes, guidance materials and support services are designed to assist countries in systematically addressing this challenge and are closely linked to the various recommendations issued by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). Underlying principles that guide all activities include that they be country-driven (*by* countries *for* countries) and involve all interested and affected parties.

National Chemicals Management Profiles

88. Assessing and diagnosing the existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals through the preparation of a National Profile is considered an important prerequisite for building national capacity in a systematic way. National Profiles have also been recognised as an important tool for implementation of international chemicals-related agreements, in particular for preparing Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Through its National Profile Programme, UNITAR provides IFCS-endorsed guidance, training and technical support to assist countries. By June 2002, some 68 countries have prepared a National Profile, and another 24 are in preparation.

Information Exchange Among Institutions and Stakeholders

89. Chemicals management at the country level often involves a wide range of activities conducted by ministries, stakeholders, and other institutions. Often, national chemicals management experts and civil servants lack knowledge of activities that are conducted by different national institutions due to inadequate information exchange. In support of country-based efforts UNITAR, in cooperation with UNEP and other partners, has developed guidance for strengthening information exchange at the national level. UNITAR's SISEI[1] Programme is also a key contributor to this work. To-date, a series of pilot workshops have taken place in developing countries to support this work.

[1] Système d'Information et de Suivi de l'Environnement sur Internet

Strengthening National Coordination Mechanisms

90. Strengthening coordination among Ministries and other interested and affected parties on chemicals-related issues can help to avoid duplication of efforts and may lead to more efficient use of scarce resources. Coordination can also catalyse joint decision-making and, in the longer term, result in more coherent national policies. In response to requests from countries to learn about the different experiences and approaches to national coordination, UNITAR has initiated a survey in 2002 in order to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned regarding country approaches to coordination. In addition, draft guidance has been developed in the context of a related programme in three developing countries. The development of further guidance materials and training is planned.

Coordinated Priority-Setting

91. Setting priorities in a coordinated way allows countries to focus their limited resources on effectively addressing critical chemicals-related issues. UNITAR has prepared a guidance document on organising a National Priority-Setting Workshop, and provides support to interested countries to organise such an event, resources permitting. By 2002, some 16 countries had organised a National Priority Setting Workshop with the support of UNITAR.

Coordinated Financial Resource Mobilisation

92. Capacity building for the sound management of chemicals requires the mobilisation of resources – both human and financial. Understanding the resource allocation planning process within a country is an important step that can lead to successful financial mobilisation. Ministries working together towards financial resource mobilisation may collectively generate new and additional resources for the sound management of chemicals, in particular from external sources. UNITAR guidance has been developed in response to demands originating both from countries and from donor governments. A Thematic Workshop on this topic, bringing together representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, other governments, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations is planned for 2002.

Country Projects to Support Integrated Chemicals Management

93. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, three countries – Ecuador, Senegal and Sri Lanka – are participating in two-year projects (ending in early 2003) entitled "*Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme* (INP) *for the Sound Management of Chemicals*". These projects are implemented in cooperation with all IOMC participating organisations, as well as other international and national partners. A formal advisory body has been established to provide overall guidance and to ensure systematic utilisation of expertise available through UNITAR's IOMC partner organisations. Countries address integrated chemicals management issues and Action Plan development on topics identified through a national priority-setting process. Expected results include an updated National Profile, completed Action Plans on two priority topics, a financial resource mobilisation strategy and strengthened national inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder mechanisms. The Programme is designed in a flexible manner to allow countries to consider areas of particular importance to their national situation.

Specialised Training and Capacity Building Programmes

94. On a select number of topics, UNITAR offers specialised guidance to assist countries in their strategy development processes. In each Programme, UNITAR works jointly with at least one other IOMC participating organisation to develop guidance, provide technical support and build advisory networks. A systematic planning framework is provided, while all substantive decisions are made by partner countries. Following are brief descriptions of the activities conducted.

Chemical Hazard Communication and Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

95. The goal of chemical hazard communication is to ensure that employers, employees and the

public know about chemical hazards and how to protect themselves. The subject of chemical hazard communication is also an integral element within the areas being addressed under the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), which is currently being finalised through a key UN subcommittee. A joint UNITAR/ ILO programme assists countries to develop and implement chemical hazard communication action plans through participation of affected and interested parties.

96. A Programme Advisory Group with participants from international organisations, countries, industry, labour groups, universities and other interested parties has been established. It reviews programme documents, ensures complimentarity with other hazard communication initiatives, and provides guidance regarding programme implementation. With the support of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, a pilot project to develop a national chemical hazard communication strategy is being implemented in 2002-2003. A WSSD partnership proposal, designed to assist with realising an IFCS and Bali Prepcom goal of GHS implementation by 2008, has been proposed by UNITAR, OECD and ILO.

Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

97. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) have proven to be an effective tool for environmental management by providing government and the public with information on releases and transfers of toxic chemicals to air, water, and land. The UNITAR PRTR Training and Capacity Building Programme, which is implemented in co-operation with OECD and UNEP Chemicals, assists countries in the design and implementation of national PRTRs.

98. A series of UNITAR guidance and resource documents is available to assist countries in developing a PRTR. At the international level, UNITAR has initiated a Network of PRTR Resource Persons through which interested countries learn about and have enhanced access to PRTR-related expertise in countries and organisations.

Skills-Building Programmes

99. In many instances, civil servants and experts from non-governmental organisations charged with chemical safety responsibilities lack skills to develop effective strategies to address specific chemical management topics. To address these challenges, UNITAR has developed a range of skills-building services and training activities.

Action Plan Development

100. Whether nationally-identified priorities address an individual or group of chemicals, an infrastructure issue, a specific chemicals management instrument or a relevant international agreement, sound and well coordinated Action Plans need to be developed which outline precise goals, objectives, planned activities, suggested implementation mechanisms, as well as financial and human resource needs. UNITAR provides guidance and training to partner countries in the area of Action Plan development and project planning and management with an emphasis on chemicals management subject areas. Cooperation with UNEP to undertake Action Plan development skills-building in the context of the Stockholm Convention is ongoing.

Risk Management Decision-Making for Priority Chemicals

101. A growing number of international agreements dealing with chemicals of international concern, such as the Stockholm Convention or chemicals included in the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), oblige countries to make national risk management decisions. This Programme, conducted in cooperation with the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), aims to strengthen skills and capabilities of those responsible for chemicals management at the national level to undertake sound risk management planning. Training activities conducted under the Programme promote a general understanding of risk assessment methodologies and risk management approaches in order to assist countries to make well-informed risk management decisions. The Programme is implemented through country-based projects during which partner countries choose a priority chemical(s), undertake a situation analysis and develop options for action

as part of the development of a risk management plan. A country-based project in Ghana is under way, with the support of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation. A detailed guidance document is being developed in cooperation with IPCS and UNEP.

Development of a Public Involvement Plan

102. Development of sound public involvement plans is an area of growing interest in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. As a first step towards developing targeted guidance and training material in this area, UNITAR has initiated a collaborative research project with the University of Cape Town. The project will identify practical lessons learned in South Africa from involving the public in risk management decision-making following constitutional reform in 1994.

Supporting Activities

103. In order to facilitate access to existing information and experiences and to provide added value to ongoing capacity building efforts of various actors, UNITAR is conducting the following capacity building-related support activities and services.

Organisation of Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management

104. A series of Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management Capacity Building has addressed topics such as information exchange (September 1998), awareness-raising (October 1998), legislation (June 1999), risk management decision-making (October 1999), and chemicals analysis and monitoring (November 2001). Workshops on coordinated financial resource mobilisation and strengthening coordination are planned for 2002-2003.

B. The Climate Change Programme

Overview and Background

105. In 1993, UNITAR and the Climate Convention Secretariat launched a pilot climate change programme, called 'CC:Train', followed by a full three year programme to address problems that developing countries were facing in managing climate change issues. After the successful completion and evaluation of CC:Train, the UNITAR programme was profoundly reorganized in 2001 with the continuous financial support of the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape to adjust to evolving needs and the most recent decisions taken by the Parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The fundamental objective of the current CCP is to solidify its country driven approach and serve as a rapid and efficient implementation tool for the work of the UNFCCC as well as the Implementing Agencies, acting for the GEF, as financial mechanism of the Convention. In the reporting period, UNITAR concluded a major survey on capacity building needs to implement the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries conducted one major LDC workshop in cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and UNDP (see LDC section) and developed two new country driven capacity building initiatives.

Survey 'Who needs what to implement the Kyoto Protocol? An Assessment of the Climate Change related Capacity-building Needs in 33 Developing Countries'

106. In the context of the UNFCCC negotiations regarding capacity building Decisions, the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP and the Governments of Canada and Norway funded a survey carried out by four regional investigating institutions (Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Middle East) together with UNITAR. Preliminary results were presented in The Hague (COP6 Part 1). The regional reports were completed mid 2001 and the final report was launched in Marrakech (COP7). The most important conclusion of the assessment is that increased emphasis on capacity building activities – in the widest sense

of the term – is a key component to the successful implementation of the UNFCCC in developing countries.

LDC capacity building to Address Climate Change Issues

107. Also in the recent context of the UNFCCC negotiations, an agreement was made to provide urgent support to Least Developed Countries (LDC). The UNITAR Climate change programme developed a project for GEF funding through UNDP, to support human and institutional capacity building of the climate change Focal Points from the 46 LDCs. This project is aiming at providing ICT equipment and training to UNFCCC Focal Points from all LDCs with the objective of improving communication among themselves and the rest of the world. A UNFCCC/GEF workshop was held in Bandos (Maldives) in October/November 2001 to disseminate knowledge on the "Capacity building Self Needs Assessment" methodology, a new type of GEF capacity building funded projects. The allocations of grants to allow the purchase of ICT equipment could be made available to 41 LDC Focal Points by mid 2002.

Strengthening Human and Institutional Capacity in Developing countries for Effective Negotiation, Policy Analysis and Coordination on Climate Change

108. Some develcping countries have experienced difficulty over the past ten years in integrating effectively into the climate change negotiations. Widespread structural impediments, weak and often inexperienced human resources, low levels of infrastructure, and institutional deficiencies have constrained their capacity. In many of these countries, although support was provided to help them with the formulation of their National Communications, these conditions have worsened, and they are sure to continue to inhibit the degree to which these countries prepare for intergovernmental negotiations and negotiate effectively during international meetings. These capacity constraints are exacerbated by the frequent turnover of professional staff common to many developing countries. This reality, together with their inability to field large and specialized delegations, leaves a capacity gap that contributes to their difficulty to integrate fully into the multilateral process. The new CCP project aims to strengthen the human resource and institutional capacity of developing countries for effective negotiation, policy analysis and coordination on climate change. It seeks to promote an institutionalised and sustainable approach to capacity building by strengthening endogenous centres in designated countries.

109. The immediate training target groups include three existing regional centres based in Africa (Dakar and Cape Town) and Asia (Colombo, Sir Lanka), who will reach out and target the UNFCCC national focal points, senior level climate negotiators, focal points for bilateral and multilateral development assistance, and other concerned government actors and stakeholder groups in the targeted regions. The main project activities include institutional capacity building; a training of the trainers programme; training programme development and first implementation by the regional centres; and, a pilot phase for developing an interactive distance learning programme to support the negotiating and policy analysis capacity of designated countries. Potential donors currently review this project, mainly the Directorate General for Development of the EC and its implementation is expected early 2003.

Institutional Building to Facilitate the Implementation of the UNFCCC in the Central Group 11 (CG11)

110. A support programme was formulated by UNITAR in close coordination with the UNFCCC Focal Points of the "Central Group 11", i.e. the Central European countries that have agreed upon concrete GHG reduction targets, to fulfil their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The proposed capacity and institution-building project will enable them to fulfil their commitments under the UNFCCC, by developing their capacity to establish and maintain permanent national GHG inventory systems compliant with international guidance and standards. In particular, the proposed project will facilitate and support the CG11 Parties in planning for and establishing national inventory systems with the following objectives. At COP7, in November 2001 in Marrakech, the

draft support programme was reviewed and discussed with the eleven UNFCCC Focal Points attending the conference. The project concept also includes 11 Annexes describing specific needs and priorities at country level as well as practical details on national implementation partners. Funding raising for this capacity building project is a priority of the UNITAR CCP in order to start its implementation early 2003.

C. International Training Center for Local Actors: Programme on Decentralized Cooperation and Sustainable Development (CIFAL)

111. The CIFAL programme, based in Divonne-les-Bains, France, aims at answering concerns of decentralized actors and providing elements of professional training to individuals involved at local levels of responsibility.

Providing specific services

112. The CIFAL Programme provides
- A decentralised cooperation service structure;
- An international space for meetings and exchange of experiences between local actors such as local authorities, para-public and private structures working in the field of sustainable development (water, sanitation, waste management) and global actors such as UN Agencies and Global companies;
- A working decentralised cooperation system open to all local actors in the field of sustainable social and human development and international cooperation.

113. Working in the spirit of decentralised cooperation, CIFAL objectives are:
- To assist local actors in the local implementation of international commitments taken either by their Government or by the territorial community;
- To help local actors to find an audience on the international stage and have an active and positive contribution to a controlled globalization;
- To help local actors to benefit from experiences, tools, financing structures and international partnerships;
- To make expertise of the international system, territorial communities, and association and private sectors available to local actors;
- To create conditions required for supranational discussion between local actors and international institutions.

Workshops and Seminars

114. In 2000, with the financial support of the Mairie de Divonne, Département de l'Ain, the Region of Rhône Alpes and the Canton of Geneva, in the framework of the European Union Interreg II programme, five seminars were organized to test the CIFAL concept:
- Tourism and sustainable development;
- Decentralized cooperation in the frame of sustainable development in relation with the United Nations system;
- Territorial Community Services of Internet and Decentralized Cooperation (Case of Mali, Case of Mauritania);
- High level Meeting on Partnerships between European territorial Regions/Communities and the United Nations in the frame of the sustainable reconstruction of Regions coming out of crisis (Balkans in general, more specifically Kosovo).

115. Some 400 participants have already benefited from the seminars, expressing satisfaction with the CIFAL formula. Meetings of multiple actors are undoubtedly conducive to an appreciation of the variety of points of view and to be in contact with other approaches in the spirit of decentralized cooperation. The participation of speakers coming from various horizons could lead to wider outlooks and more valuable discussions.

116. These initial seminars have revealed that local actors have a strong need for the creation of a permanent facility, open to all, where it

would be possible to obtain consulting services, meet people and be associated in a dynamic move toward a local and international development in a non-bureaucratic environment.

Action in the field

117. At field level, the CIFAL Programme has contributed to a number of decentralized cooperation experiences:

- In Lebanon, assisting municipalities and local actors of Northern Lebanon to develop their reconstruction action scheme in a post conflict context. The project is developed in the framework of UNOPS RESS / UNDP initiative.

- In Tunisia, assisting the Ministers of Environment and Interior of Tunisia to develop a training strategy for Local Agenda 21. A pilot training project has started with the Municipality and the Region of Monastir, in the elaboration of their Local Agenda 21 through a participatory approach.

- In Kosovo, assisting UNMIK and UNDP within the Logo Program, as a pilot project, two municipalities of Kosovo, to develop their own administrative system for better local governance: MUDIS, in cooperation with two municipalities of Switzerland and France.

Contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

118. UNITAR, with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), and the World Federation of United Cities (UTO), on behalf of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC), agreed to organise, in cooperation with NGOs (Global Eco Village Network) and the Private Sector (Vivendi Environnement), "Regional Fora on Sustainable Urbanisation". These fora aimed at identifying the priorities of local authorities and their partners in building their capacities for sustainable development and to review available external support in different thematic and geographic contexts.

119. The regional fora were organised between December 2001 and July 2002 in Africa (Durban, December 2001), South America (Curitiba, April 2002), Asia-Pacific (Shanghai, June 2002), and Europe (Lyon, July 2002). Each regional forum has focused on specific public services topics such as water and sanitation, waste management, energy and transport, shelter and slum upgrading, public health, and municipal informatization. The key participants were local authorities and their partners in the public, private and civil society sectors, as well as external programmes they cooperate with. These support programmes originate from multilateral and bilateral organisations, international associations of local authorities, international NGOs, as well as the international business community.

120. The regional pre-Summit workshops have resulted in concrete recommendations and action plans for filling gaps, avoiding overlaps and exploiting complementarities in the support available to local actors.

121. At the same time, the stated objectives, as officially presented at Johannesburg, were the bringing together of a number of UN Agencies (UNITAR, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNOPS, UNECE, WHO), Inter-governmental Bodies (the European Union), Associations of Cities (both global and regional), NGOs (Global Ecovillage Network, Fondation du Devenir), and the private sector (Vivendi Environnement), in order to develop a comprehensive capacity building and training programme based on a public-private partnership initiative for Local Authorities to achieve sustainable urbanization.

122. The public – private partnership type 2 initiative on capacity building and training for sustainable urbanization, targets the following specific projects to be implemented starting in the year 2002:

- Regional training centers in Curitiba, Durban, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur and Lyon with and for Local Authorities in the field of environment (water, sanitation, waste management, public transport).
- An Internet server to get access to local technical services related to environment for local authorities (water, sanitation, waste management, public transport).
- Training for Local applications of International Legal Instruments related to the

Environment, as developed so far in the CIFAL at Divonne-les-Bains in France.
- Local Governance for modernization of local management, local transparency and participatory approach.
- Training Local Authorities in the field of AIDS for their local involvement.
- Decentralised cooperation and Local Agenda 21.
- The internationalisation of the right to access local services.
- The participation of UNITAR to the International University for Sustainable Development.

123. These activities, sponsored by various structures (UN Agencies, Governments, Local Authorities, NGOs and Private Companies) will be implemented starting early 2003.

D. Information and Communication Training programmes

124. UNITAR has been working on capacity building and training projects and programmes in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) since 1986 and has developed a strong and stable network of partnerships with experts and specialized institutions from all over the world. Our partner institutions include UN Agencies, Inter and Governmental bodies, NGOs, Technical institutions, Universities, engineering, as well as business companies.

125. For the last two years UNITAR, has faced an increased number of related training and capacity building activities, which has given the opportunity to structure its ICT programmes within 4 main clusters:

A la carte training
- Hands-on introductory and advanced training on the use of ICT;
- Training on the technical and the legal aspects of the Internet;
- Certificate training programme.

E-governance
- Applications to local, urban, national and global governances: social and economic affairs, the environment and finance;
- Role and place of ICT within the Information Society.

Support to international instruments & other agreements
- Preparing countries for negotiations on international legal instruments;
- Improving links and working relationships with UN Conventions' Secretariats;
- Assisting countries with their reporting to the Conference of the Parties.

E-Learning
- Using the UNITAR e-learning platform for distance training;
- Research on the pedagogical adaptation of training to this new media.

A la carte training

126. UNITAR is conducted a wide range of "à la carte" ICT training activities from basic to advanced professional technical courses, as well as on related policy, socio-economic and legal issues, mostly in Africa.

127. **Basic** technical skills-development sessions, including introduction of PC operating systems, use of office automation tools, email and Internet, and web-design, are organized for civil servants in Member States and delegates from Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna. Activities are conducted in collaboration with other UN agencies, Governmental and private partners.

128. **Advanced** technical training sessions are being conducted for engineers and technicians in developing countries in the fields of data base management, geographic information systems, remote sensing and web site development. These sessions have been developed with OSS in one hand for the African Continent and with UNEP for the GEO 3 Outlook programme, throughout the 5 continents.

129. **Policy Awareness** sessions in Information Technology on topics related to policy and security issues are also regularly conducted for diplomats of permanent missions to the UN in Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Vienna.

130. **Specialized courses** are also set up for, among others, journalists in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the context of UN Quick Impact Project, lawyers and Telecom decision makers in Francophone Africa on issues such as: ICT and North/South relations; Reducing the 'digital divide'; Domain names and global governance of the Internet; Information systems and security issues; Global policy issue; International Law and Cyberspace; and E-commerce.

131. Specific training material have been developed such the second version of the CD ROM "Internet in South" developed with UNESCO, WIPO, the World Bank, the Francophonie and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Internet in South" is real virtual library with many scientific and legal texts as well as many free software. Other specific training material have been developed with the different ITC training activities.

E-governance

132. Within its mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations and its members states, and in the context of the evolving ICT era, UNITAR has continued to work these last two years on how to improve governance at different levels through capacity building and training.

133. **E-governance at the multinational level**: the "Internet for Sustainable Development Programme" is currently working on Internet governance and the harmonization of a legal framework through the "Law & Cyberspace Project", sponsored by the International Organization of Francophonie. Also, the Intel/UNITAR Campus on New Communication Technologies and Diplomacy aims at exposing participants (senior-level diplomats) to issues relative to the governance of ICT at the multilateral level. Both initiatives aim at providing an understanding of and facilitating discussions on guidelines for international policy-making.

134. **E-governance at the national level**: the "Internet for Sustainable Development Programme" has assisted Gabon in entering the Information Society by providing specific target groups with a comprehensive understanding of the issues at stake and by focusing, in particular, on technical aspects (telecommunication and computer science infrastructures), legal questions (intellectual property, e-trade, illegal and harmful content, public information, encryption..) and socio-economic issues.

135. **Environmental E-governance**: the "Environmental Information System on the Internet Programme (SISEI)" jointly developed with the Observatory of Sahel and Sahara, ITU and UNEP, seeks to generate an adequate framework among environmental stakeholders (government agencies and administrations, NGOs, academic & private sectors) in African countries and sub-regions in order to implement systems for the validation, circulation and harnessing of relevant environmental information, with a view to strengthening the participative approach at both the decision-making and the operational levels. The last two years have been used to finalize the pilot phase at national level in 7 countries (Benin, Mali, Marocco, Senegal, Tunisia and Uganda) and at regional levels with 2 regions (Union du Maghreb Arab and the Permanent Inter Governmental Committee for Drought in Sahel). A second phase for all African countries is under preparation to start in 2003.

136. **E-governance at the local level**: the "International Training Center for Local Authorities Programme (CIFAL)" has designed and developed a double concept addressing the issues of urbanization, modernization of local administration and social dialogue between local authorities and the civil society. After Lebannon and Senegal in 2000, one major project has been conducted in 2001 and 2002 in Kosovo, aiming at i) increasing the amount and quality of information available to municipal staff for administrative planning and decision-making; and ii) facilitating participatory processes in the new framework of decentralization.

Support to international instruments & other agreements

137. UNITAR, through the ICT component of its environmental programmes, provides countries with the most recent knowledge and insights on strategies and issues related to ICT development which could assist in the implementation of international environmental conventions.

138. The "Chemicals and Waste Management Training Programme" deals with conventions and agreements related to the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) and, more recently, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). It has developed guidance and training material to facilitate effective information exchange on chemicals involving all relevant ministries and stakeholders at the national level.

139. The "Climate Change" programme, in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations, executed a UNDP/GEF funded project to strengthen human and institutional resources of the UNFCCC National Focal Points from the Least Developed Countries. This one-year project improved their connection to the World Wide Web and their capacity to efficiently retrieve climate change information on the UNFCCC Secretariat website. A training manual was produced to summarize basic technical ICT information and climate change resources available on the web from all UN agencies, and contains more than 150 sites.

140. In the context of its second phase of activities to start in 2003, The "Environmental Information System on the Internet - SISEI" programme is providing links between national and sub-regional focal points of the UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC Conventions through the elaboration of shared information systems and web portals.

141. Since 1993, within the framework of the Agenda 21, Chapter 40, UNITAR has initiated, in cooperation with partners, a series of GIS Conferences in Africa where practitioners, from around the world, share their experiences and views on the use of geospatial information for sustainable development. UNITAR has been a partner with UNEP and EIS Africa in the organization of the fourth AFRICAGIS Conference which was held in Nairobi in November 2001. More than 500 participants attended. UNITAR will be partner for the fifth edition and the tenth anniversary in Dakar Senegal in the year 2003.

E-Learning

142. With the aim of improving its efficiency, reaching a broader audience and reducing the cost of training per participant, UNITAR is developing on-line training courses available on a UNITAR e-learning platform. The key objectives are to strengthen existing ties with regional training centers, offer joint courses with partners in Africa and elsewhere and develop new frameworks for partnerships with countries. UNITAR is also aiming at developing @-learning capacities in countries where IT awareness is still poor, so as to ensure access to UNITAR training programmes.

143. E-learning on the "Legal Aspects of Debt, Financial Management and Negotiation" and the "Application of Environmental Law" will be available by fall 2002.

Contribution to the World Summit on Information Society

144. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), as lead agency in the preparation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), has requested UNITAR to provide Least Developed Countries with the most recent knowledge and insights on strategies and issues related to Information and Communication Technology development and support them in their efforts to prepare for the Summit. The objective of this initiative is to enhance the ability of LDC's to express their needs as far as the role that information technology can play in alleviating poverty, supporting good governance and protecting human rights as well as promoting innovation and enterprise as part of the process of achieving sustainable social, economic and political development. The project should enable all the key stakeholders in these countries, governments, civil society and

businesses, to fully assess the value-added that their participation in the Summit can provide. It will also seek to enhance their capacities to more adequately negotiate their interests during proceedings and put forward relevant proposals. This project will ultimately seek to enable these countries to suggest appropriate follow-up programmes and articulate a plan of action and appropriate strategies, to be included in the recommendations of the WSIS.

E. Training Programme in the Legal Aspects of Debt and Financial Management for Sub-Saharan Africa and Vietnam

Overview and Background

145. UNITAR's Training Programme in the Legal Aspects of Debt, Financial Management and Negotiation has its genesis in a high-level expert meeting (Geneva, April 1987). Since then, training (through short-duration regional seminars and workshops) and capacity building initiatives have been undertaken to develop and enhance the skill levels of government officials (particularly from the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Attorney-General's Chambers, Foreign Affairs, Central Banks and Universities) in the legal aspects of debt, financial management and negotiation of financial transactions. In this respect, UNITAR has exercised its acknowledged comparative advantage in the design and implementation of regional training programmes addressed at sensitizing senior government officials and training middle-level officials to various aspects of debt and financial management. The hallmark of this period is consolidation of regional training activities for English-speaking African countries, commencement of training in 16 French-speaking Africa and the development of online training using new information technologies.

Sub-Saharan Africa

146. In the reporting period, UNITAR conducted 14 regional workshops benefiting 401 government officials from East, West and Southern African countries (both English and French-speaking). Additionally, training materials were compiled and distributed as part of each workshop and a series of documents as well as best practice materials were published and distributed. The workshop topics included:

- Negotiating and Drafting Specific Clauses in Loan Agreements;
- Effective Public Debt Management;
- Arbitration and Dispute Resolution;
- Negotiation Techniques and Strategies in relation to Financial Transactions;
- Financial Management, Negotiation and the Bretton Woods Institutions;
- Legal Aspects of Debt Negotiation and Renegotiation;
- Legal Aspects of Public Debt Management;
- Debt Management and National Budgeting;
- Legal Aspects of Debt and Financial Management (Sensitization of High-level Officials); and
- Negotiation and Drafting of Loan Agreements.

147. The hallmark of this period has been the expansion of this programme for 16 French-speaking African nations. Furthermore, collaboration with Regional Training Institutes has been consolidated and expanded in all regions of Africa. All workshops conducted by UNITAR have been conducted in conjunction with its partners on a strictly cost-sharing basis and keeping in view the comparative advantage in training of the partners concerned. The African Regional Partner Training Institutes include:

- Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI, Arusha);
- International Law Institute - Uganda Legal Centre of Excellence (ILI-Uganda, Kampala);
- Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute (MEFMI, Harare);
- West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM, Lagos); and
- Pôle-Dette (Yaoundé, Cameroun) for French-speaking Central and West Africa.

Vietnam

148. Following a needs assessment conducted by UNITAR, during the reporting period, UNITAR has conducted one national workshop for the Government of Vietnam benefiting 26 officials. The results, as reflected in the participant questionnaires, have been extremely positive. Future national training workshops and dissemination of training materials are planned in the coming months and years. The two workshops have been conducted in Hanoi so far. UNITAR has also successfully concluded a project to offer training to Vietnamese government officials jointly with UNDP Hanoi on Development and Regulation of Capital Markets.

F. Foreign Economic Relations

149. UNITAR's Training Programmes on Foreign Economic Relations (FER) seek to strengthen human resources within public institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the fields of financial management, trade, and investment. Training workshops are targeted primarily to senior and middle-level public sector officials involved in managing external debt, negotiating loan and trade agreements, promoting foreign direct investment and facilitating the development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). In recent years, the scope of the programme has been expanded to include private sector entrepreneurs in order to enhance a closer public-private cooperation. In the reporting period a total of 855 participants attended UNITAR workshops on Foreign Economic Relations.

Training Programme in International Economic and Financial Relations for the Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan

150. During the two years from July 1998 to June 2000, UNITAR has conducted twelve training workshops in Central Asia and Azerbaijan. Workshops were both of a regional and national nature focusing on three main subject areas: debt management; international trade and customs modernisation; and investment promotion and SMEs development. Regional workshops were conducted on issues considered relevant for the entire region where individual countries could benefit from discussion and exchange of experiences with neighbouring countries. National workshops seek to provide a more specific training approach geared to match the specific training needs of public officials within a given country. Recently, the programme has placed particular emphasis on training in International Trade Relations and the Multilateral Trading System as some countries in the region are currently negotiating accession to the World Trade Organization.

UNITAR/UNCTAD/UNDP Training Programme in Effective Debt Management

151. Since June 1998, UNITAR, in partnership with UNCTAD and UNDP, organised a series of four training workshops on Debt Management for Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Making the most of the complementary expertise of each organisation, the workshops covered various dimensions of debt management, from the legal to the financial aspects, focusing on operational issues and the development of specific skills for effective debt management.

Fellowship Programme on the Legal Aspects of Debt and Financial Management

152. The Fellowship Programme, organised jointly with the Irish Institute for Public Administration (IPA), was conceived as a regular forum for training of debt managers from various Sub-Saharan African countries on the legal aspects of debt management. The programme, of two weeks duration, was initiated in September 1999 and counted on the participation of 23 public officials from 11 African countries. The structure of the Fellowship includes three modules: the Core Programme, comprising lectures on specific technical issues of debt management; the Action-oriented modules with practical exercises, case studies and simulation games; and Study visits to

relevant Irish public sector institutions dealing with debt management. In a follow-up assessment conducted 6 months after the programme all participants unanimously agreed that the programme was very beneficial for their everyday work showing a clear interest in further training.

Training Programme on Public Administration and Financial Management for the Palestinian Authority

153. The training programme aims to assist public sector officials from the Palestinian Authority in the development of some of the technical skills required for an efficient public administration. During the period under consideration, 13 training workshops were conducted largely in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The topics covered include Commercial Diplomacy, (conducted together with UNCTAD), International Accounting Standards, Auditing of Public Institutions and Structure and Management of Public Institutions.

154. All training programmes have developed a practical approach to training with experienced practitioners as resource persons and the use of case studies and simulation games to provide participants with the opportunity to practice the skills developed. An external review of Irish Aid involvement with UNITAR concluded that the content of the Fellowship Programme was both "relevant and of high quality". In March 2000, an external evaluation commissioned by the donor, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, stated that the programme in Central Asia was "of high quality and has yielded a good to very good response" highlighting the practical nature of the workshops.